

REMARKS

This paper is presented in response to the non-final official action of November 6, 2007, wherein (a) claims 1-3, 5, and 7-72 were pending, (b) claims 14, 19, 48, 49, and 66-68 were rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph for indefiniteness, (c) claims 19, 47-50, and 66-70 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Okazaki, et al. US 5,905,030 ("Okazaki"), (d) claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okazaki in view of Braunlich US 3,803,384 ("Braunlich"), (e) claims 33, 34, 37, 38, 53, and 57 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okazaki in view of Ashibe, et al. US 5,772,606 ("Ashibe"), (f) claims 35, 36, 39, 40, 55, and 58 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okazaki in view of Dou, et al. US 5,815,260 ("Dou"), (g) claims 41-43 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okazaki in view of Bornstein, et al. US 5,436,454 ("Bornstein"), (h) claims 1-3, 5, 7-13, 15-18, 20-32, 44-46, 51, 52, 60-65, 71, and 72 were allowed, and (i) claims 54 and 56 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This paper is timely filed, as it is accompanied by a petition for automatic extension of time to file in the second month, and the requisite extension fee.

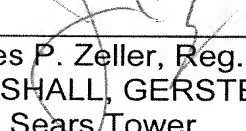
By the foregoing, claims 14, 19, 34, 36-43, 47-50, 53, 55, 57-59, and 66-70 have been canceled, and claims 33 and 35 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable (and now canceled) claims 54 and 56, respectively. Claims 23 and 46 have been amended for conformity with U.S. practice. New claims 73-75 based on claims 46 and 23, respectively, have been added. Claim 71 has been amended to improve grammar

As a result, claims 1-3, 5, 7-13, 15-18, 20-33, 35, 44-46, 51, 52, 60-65, and 71-75 are pending and are believed to be allowable.

Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form in an effort to advance this application toward allowance, he is urged to telephone the undersigned attorney at the indicated number.

March 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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